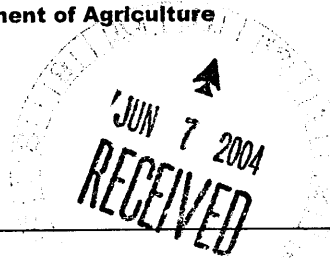




Natural Resources Conservation Service
1125 Westport Drive
Manhattan, Kansas 66502-2860



Phone: 785-776-5182
FAX: 785-539-7983
www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov

June 1, 2004

Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 172X)

Gentlemen:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed railway abandonment exemption for the Union Pacific Railroad Company on track located in Marshall County, Kansas.

Since the proposed abandonment does not affect prime farmland soils, as defined by the Farmland Protection Policy Act, I see no negative impacts to any prime farmland. Furthermore, I see no other negative environmental effects for which the Natural Resources Conservation Service is responsible for evaluating.

If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "A. R. Boerger", with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Alan R. Boerger
Resource Conservationist

Cc: Rod Egbarts, Soil Conservationist, NRCS, Salina, Kansas.
Kenneth W. Hoffman, ASTC, NRCS, Manhattan, Kansas.
Dan Faulkner, District Conservationist, NRCS, Marysville, Kansas.